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CREWKERNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

R E P O R T

O F

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

ENDING THE 31ST. OF DECEMBER, 1937.

E.R.THOMPSON. M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.)

Medical Officer of Health
for the Urban District of
Crewkerne.

CREWKERNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR
ENDING 31ST.DECEMBER,1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Crewkerne Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

My Report for the year ended the 31st. of December, 1937,
is as follows:-

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area...	...	...	...	...	...	1,269 acres.
Population.(Registrar General's estimate of						
resident population,mid-1937)...						3,466
Number of inhabited Houses(end of 1937)						
according to Rate Books..	...					1,125
Rateable Value and sum represented by a						
Penny Rate...	...	...	...	...		19663
	...	...	...	...		£79 gross.

Chief Industries.

Crewkerne is mostly dependant on the industries which are carried out within the District. There are two Factories manufacturing Webbing, one factory manufacturing Sail-Cloth, one factory manufacturing Shirts, Collars & Pyjamas, and one factory manufacturing Gloves.

These factories provide employment for a great number of people and add materially to the prosperity of the Town and district.

There are also a Brewery and Tannery in the town and these together with Agricultural and Dairy work provide a fair amount of employment.

Unemployment is at its worst during the winter months, especially amongst seasonal workers. Factory workers have spells of unemployment periodically as their employment is more or less governed by the demands and condition of the market.

<u>Vital Statistics.</u>				Total. Males. Females.		
Legitimate...				36	20	16
Live Births.						
Illegitimate.				1	1	-
Still Births.	...	...	...	4	2	2
Deaths.	...	...	...	53	19	34

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated Population...	10.7
Rate per 1000 total(live and still) births..	97.5
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident	
Population...	15.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

				Deaths. Rate per 1000 total		
				(live and still)births.		
No.29 puerperal sepsis.	...	-				-
No.30 other puerperal causes.		-				-
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.						
All infants per 1000 live births..			54
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live						
births						55.5
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate						
live births						-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			6
" " Measles(all ages)			-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)...			-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).	...					-

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer. The Sanitary Inspector holds a full-time appointment with the Council and holds a Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspectors. He has to perform other various duties, namely, Highways Surveyor, Building Inspector, Petroleum Inspector, Housing Estate Manager and Collector of General Accounts.

2(a). Laboratory Facilities.

All laboratory work is carried out by the County Analyst and Bacteriologist at the County Laboratory.

(b). Ambulance Facilities.

The nearest Ambulances available for for the district were at Yeovil and Taunton but the town has now acquired its own ambulance by voluntary subscriptions. This is being run by a local detachment of the British Red Cross Society.

(c). Clinics and Treatment Centres.

An Infant Welfare Centre and an Anti-Natal Clinic has been organised by ladies of the town, having a Doctor and a Nurse always in attendance.

A Health Exhibition was held during the year by the Health Propaganda Officer of the Somerset County Council.

(d). Nursing in the Home.

The District Maternity and Nursing Association provides for the services of two Nurses who are both certified mid-wives.

(e). Hospitals - Public and Voluntary.

Taunton and Exeter provide all the services usually found in large General Hospitals. Yeovil and Chard provide Hospital Treatment for all cases under the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council. The town has an excellent Cottage Hospital with two general wards, private wards and operating theatre. Extensive alterations and improvements have been carried out to the Local Hospital and the operating theatre has been re-equipped and provided with up-to-date appliances.

SECTION C. Sanitary circumstances in the Area.

1. Water.

The town is provided with an abundant supply of wholesome water. The water works are owned by a Private Company who always strive to supply the consumers with a supply efficient as regards quality and quantity.

The supply is normally derived from springs which are situated outside the district at Wayford, about two and a half miles from the town. Every precaution is taken to safeguard the supply at the source. This supply is soon affected by a period of drought and to augment it an auxiliary supply has been provided by means of an artesian well which has been sunk to a depth of 280 feet in close proximity to the service reservoir. This well provides an unlimited supply at all times.

Samples of water are periodically sent to the County Analyst for Bacteriological examination and the reports received have been most satisfactory.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

The whole of the drainage and sewerage systems of the town functioned quite satisfactorily during the year. The town has two separate sewage systems owing to the varying inclinations of the district. The major portion of the sewerage is treated at the Eastern Outfall Sewage Works where the treatment is by screening and land irrigation. The remainder of the sewage is treated at the Northern Outfall Works where the effluent is screened and collected into settling tanks and hence by gravitation over rotary beds.

Rivers and Streams.

There were no cases of pollution of rivers or streams in this district during the year.

3(a). Closet Accommodation.

Practically all the premises within the district are provided with the washdown type of water closet with discharge into the town's sewers. There are no premises in the district under the conservancy system. There are a few premises with earth closets owing to the difficulty found in connecting these premises to the sewers.

(b). Public Cleansing.

The district is provided with an efficient system of refuse collection and disposal. Each house is given two collections weekly. The refuse is collected in properly covered carts and is afterwards disposed of by incineration.

(c). Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Housing condition of the area is fairly satisfactory. Houses which the Council have had under review under the 1936 Housing Act are being dealt with. The building of twelve new Houses has been completed under the 1935 Housing Act to deal with overcrowding and an inspection of the district under the 1936 Housing Act has resulted in the proposed building of 27 new Houses.

(d). Shops.

No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act, 1934.

(e). Smoke Abatement.

There were no cases of smoke nuisance reported during the year.

(f). Swimming Baths.

The open-air Swimming Baths constructed by the Council in 1935 proved to be satisfactory and of great benefit to the Public using them.

(g). Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There was no action taken in this direction during the year.

4. Schools.

There are two Council Schools, one private school and one secondary school in the district. They are all provided with modern sanitary conveniences and are supplied with water from the town's supply.

SECTION D. Housing.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

- (1).a. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. of Housing Acts)... 92
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose. ... 144

- (2).a. Number of dwelling houses (including under Sub. head above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consol Regulations, 1935.. ... 72
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose. ... 124

- (3). Number of dwelling houses found to be ~~in a~~ so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.. ... 23

- (4). Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... ... 33

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice:-

- Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers ... 2

3.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</u>			
(a).	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.			
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs			21
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices -			
(a).	by owners.			12
(b).	by Local Authority in default of owners ...			-
(b).	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.			
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...			-
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices -			
(a).	by owners			-
(b).	by Local Authority in default of owners ...			-
(c).	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.			
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... ..			20
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders			-
(d).	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 -			
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made... ..			-
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit ...			-
4.	Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.			
(a).	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year			8
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein			8
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein			60
(b).	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year			-
(c).	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.			8
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...			60
(d).	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..			
(e).	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report... ..			
				None.

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SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

- (a). Milk Supply. Each dairy, cowshed and milkshop within the district is regularly inspected and there were no cases of defects to be reported. Milk samples were taken for analysis for tubercle bacilli and found to be satisfactory.
- (b). Meat and other Foods. There are three Registered and one Licensed Slaughterhouses in the district which are regularly inspected and the carcasses examined. There are seven establishments selling meat in the town and these are regularly inspected for the purpose of examining the meat exposed for sale.
There are five Bakehouses in the town which are frequently inspected and they were found to be satisfactory.
- (c). There were no cases of adulteration reported.
- (d). No action was necessary in the chemical and bacteriological examination of food.
- (e). Nutrition. No action was taken in this matter.

SECTION F. Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Enteric Fever(including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever.	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	2	-	2
<u>Other diseases notifiable:</u>			
Erysipelas.	1	-	1
<u>Analysis of the total Notified Cases:-</u>			
Age 20-35 years..1. Age 35-40...1. Age over 65...1.			

Tuberculosis.

New Cases of Mortality during 1937.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0				1				1
1				1				1
5								
15			1					
25								
35	1	2						
45		1						
55	1							
65 and over.	1							
Totals.	3	3	1	2	-	-	-	2

No cases of non-notified deaths have been discovered.

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for the Urban District of
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